

EG330 SOCIETY & ECOLOGY
IES Abroad Cape Town

DESCRIPTION:

This seminar examines the complex interactions between social systems and ecological processes in urban environments. Urban ecology offers unique insights into how patterns of abundance, distribution, and biodiversity are shaped by social, political, and economic forces, while also revealing how ecological dynamics influence urban life and planning. The aim of this course is to introduce students to both theory and practice of studying society and nature through the lens of urban ecology.

Using Cape Town as a primary case study, this course explores how urban ecologies in the global south and north diverge and intersect, with particular attention to postcolonial contexts, inequality, and sustainability. Students will critically engage with current debates in urban ecology and social-ecological systems, while also developing practical skills in field observation, data gathering, and research design. Key themes include landscape ecology, biodiversity, ecosystem services, policy, conservation, and social ecology. Through seminar discussions, readings, and hands-on projects, students will interrogate the urban landscape, formulate relevant socioecological questions, and design methods to address them. Community-based learning sessions will take place at the Sustainability Institute (offsite, in Stellenbosch) and are integral to the academic programme and are intended to provide students with additional exposure to the broader societal and ecological insights in Cape Town and South Africa. The course equips students with both conceptual frameworks and applied tools for analyzing and responding to the ecological dimensions of contemporary cities.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

COURSE FREQUENCY: Once weekly

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Pippin Anderson

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

ADDITIONAL COST: None

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

The method of presentation for this course will be conducted via lectures using PowerPoint presentations and class and group discussions. Supplementary course information will also be provided through Moodle. In addition, guest lectures and site visits will be incorporated to help demonstrate how some of the theory covered in class is deployed in practical settings.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation – 10%
- Midterm assessment – 20%
- Course-related trip report – 15%
- Group project and presentation – 15%
- Final exam – 40%

Course Participation

Participation in all class discussions/debates is mandatory. Students are expected to prepare for each class by doing the required reading and reflection, in addition to regularly checking notices on Moodle. Students will, however, be required to do more than simply complete the readings and attend the contact sessions. They will be asked to engage thoughtfully and openly with the material and come to class prepared to respectfully question, engage and explore concepts raised. Students are expected to bring their own questions, thoughts and ideas to class discussions and activities.

Midterm Assessment

Midway through this course students will be examined on all materials covered during the first five lectures. This assessment will be a blend of comprehension and understanding, closed book exam which will be completed within the normal two-hour class time.

Due date: Monday 6 July 2026

Course Related Trip Reports

After the first course-related trip to government-led urban parks and wetlands, students will submit 750 – 1,000 words (3-5 pages) 1,000-1,250 words (4-6 pages) reflecting on and analyzing their experience. With a rubric provided by the lecturer, students are required to compare the similarities and differences between government and grassroots eco-sustainability projects students participate in during community-based learning to enhance their reflections about the broader field of nature and society in Cape Town and South Africa. Students will be marked according to a rubric, on the development of their reflection and analysis, and integration of course readings. Additional information will be provided by your lecturer.

Due date: Friday 10 July 2026

Group Project & Presentation

After visiting specific sites related to baboon populations in Noordhoek during the second Course Related Trip, students will be split up into groups ahead of time of 3 and tasked with creating an information poster aimed at contextualising the area's urban ecological dynamics for international visitors. The lecturer will provide a prompt before the trip with specific items and themes students must look out for and include in their presentation, including their first CRT Report. In Session 15 each group will present their information posters to their peers as part of a broader class reflection exercise on the importance of urban ecology. The lecturer will provide assessment criteria ahead of the course related trip.

Due date: Thursday 23 July 2026

Final Exam

The final exam will be a closed book examination, and students will be examined on selected content from classes seven to thirteen. Structured short and long answer questions will be set to demonstrate understanding and application of theories, concepts and approaches to nature and society in Cape Town and South Africa. The exam questions will require students to apply theories, concepts and approaches learnt to practical situations and/or case studies. You will have the full two hours for the exam.

Date: Wednesday 29 July 2026

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Evaluate the terminology and concepts that relate to nature and society as defined by an urban ecology framing.
- Assess key concepts in relation to theory, methods, and social perception for urban ecology, sustainability, and conservation.

- Connect broader global ecological challenges debates in the field of urban ecology within the local context of Cape Town in order to explain their relevance to international audiences.
- Apply lessons from the South African example into global contexts to demonstrate how large ecological systems interact and overlap with one another.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, and programming elements including course-related trips, guest lectures, observational rotations, etc. Excused absences are permitted in the cases of documented illness, a family emergency or when class is held on a recognized religious holiday traditionally observed by a student. In this case, an IES Abroad Excused Absence Form and supporting documents must be submitted to the Academic Manager at least 24 hours before the class. For illness, the Excused Absence Form must be submitted to the Academic Manager within 24 hours after class with the doctor's note. In the event of late arrival to class, the instructor will mark the student absent if they are more than ten minutes late.

More than two unexcused absences will result in two percentage points (2%) being deducted from the final grade for every additional unexcused absence thereafter. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies. If a test is missed during an unexcused absence, it cannot be made up. It is the student's responsibility to contact the lecturer and request information on the missed class as well as any relevant reading or homework information.

Session	Content	Readings
Introduction to Ecology, Society, and Cape Town		
Session 1	Lecture: Getting to Grips with Ecology. This first class introduces students to the basic nuts-and-bolts concepts associated with ecology. An overview of the history of the discipline provides a useful vehicle for running through basic terminology from taxonomic hierarchies, species richness and diversity metrics, to more recent terminology such as ecosystem services and nature-based solutions. Cape Town's Remarkable Biodiversity. Once students have a handle on some of the language used in contemporary ecology, the ecology of Cape Town can be introduced. Biomes of southern Africa, to the specific ecology of the Fynbos Biome, and down to the	Readings: Rebelo, A.G., Holmes, P.M., Dorse, C. and Wood, J., 2011. Impacts of urbanization in a biodiversity hotspot: Conservation challenges in Metropolitan Cape Town. <i>South African Journal of Botany</i>, 77(1), pp. 20-35. McDonnell, M.J. and Hahs, A.K., 2013. The future of urban biodiversity research: moving beyond the 'low-hanging fruit'. <i>Urban Ecosystems</i>, 16(3), pp. 397-409.

	significant complexities of the very rich and diverse nature of Cape Town will be introduced.	
Session 2	Lecture: The Establishment of the City of Cape Town. To understand Cape Town's contemporary form and associated society-nature relations, we need to have a full understanding of the settlement of the city. This class presents a chronological history going back some 20,000 years, tracing the original San inhabitants through to Khoi arrivals about 2000 years ago, and through to European colonization. Contemporary Cape Town Society. This class is directed by the contemporary urban form, with attention to how racially informed spatial planning has divided up the city in ways that are hard cast into the landscape as we see it today. It is critical that informality is engaged in this lecture as a critical part of the urban fabric of Cape Town. Given the focus of this class on nature and society, close attention should be given to the distribution of green-space in the City.	Readings: Geyer, H.S., 2023. Can informality help create smart, sustainable cities? The vibrancy of self-organised informal settlements in Cape Town (19 pages). Pietersen, E., (2009). Post-apartheid geographies in South Africa: Why are urban divides so persistent. <i>Interdisciplinary debates on development and cultures: cities in development—spaces, conflicts and agency</i>. Leuven University (15 pages).
Session 3	Lecture: Society and Ecology. In this class society and nature are brought into the same space and urban ecology is introduced. The history of this sub-discipline gives a strong sense of how this is a legitimate realm of study. Moving from the Chicago School of Urban Planning, through environmental movements late in the last century such as man and biosphere, through to contemporary urban ecological work that brings together the ecology in/of/with, drawing equally on social and ecological considerations. Society and ecology in Cape Town. Understandings around ecology, contemporary Cape Town, and urban ecology are brought	Readings: Anderson, P., Charles-Dominique, T., Ernstson, H., Andersson, E., Goodness, J. and Elmqvist, T. (2020). Post-apartheid ecologies in the City of Cape Town: An examination of plant functional traits in relation to urban gradients, <i>Landscape and Urban Planning</i>, Volume 193, (10 pages). Mitchell, D. (2008). New axioms for reading the landscape: Paying attention to political economy and social justice. In <i>Political economies of landscape change: Places of integrative power</i>, pp. 29-50.

	together. Highlights include how spatial form influences emergent ecologies and how ecologies in turn influence people's lived experience of the city. Issues such as access, livelihoods, conservation imperatives, and housing demands, are presented in conversation with global policy guidelines such as the SDGs, and the more recent Global Biodiversity Framework.	
Session 4	Lecture: How Does the Traditional Land-sharing versus Land-sparing Debate That Emerged in Conservation Science Translate into the Urban Planning Space? This lecture presents an overview of planning cities for people and planning cities for nature and then invokes some of the conservation angles where this debate originates. There is also lots of material on the needs of people to engage in nature and this naturally has spatial planning implications in cities. Both sides of the case are presented.	Readings: Soga, M., Yamaura, Y., Koike, S. and Gaston, K.J. (2014). Land sharing vs. land sparing: does the compact city reconcile urban development and biodiversity conservation? <i>Journal of Applied Ecology</i>, 51(5), pp. 1378-1386. Fischer, J., et al. (2014). "Land Sparing Versus Land Sharing: Moving Forward." <i>Conservation Letters</i> 7(3), pp. 149–157. Stott, I., Soga, M., Inger, R. and Gaston, K.J. (2015). Land sparing is crucial for urban ecosystem services. <i>Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment</i>, 13(7), pp. 387-393.
Critical Contemporary Debates in Society and Ecology		
Session 5	Lecture: Are City Ecologies Homogenizing? Are Cities Becoming More Alike, or Do They Remain More Akin to Their Adjacent Biomes? There are two schools of thought around biotic homogenization in nature and ecology in response to human pressure and both remain under exploration. The first is that urban land use is resulting in ecological homogenization where human dominance and leading land-management practices are making urban ecological systems more similar to each other than their adjacent rural ecologies. Are cities directed by such similar assembly rules that their ecologies are all the same, or does the original template, the biome in which they	Readings: Barot, S. et al. (2019). Urban Ecology, Stakeholders and the Future of Ecology. <i>Science of the Total Environment</i> 667, pp. 475–484. Myla F. J. Aronson et al. (2014) "A Global Analysis of the Impacts of Urbanization on Bird and Plant Diversity Reveals Key Anthropogenic Drivers." <i>Proceedings of the Royal Society. B, Biological sciences</i> 281(170), pp.1-8. Olden, J.D., Poff, N.L., Douglas, M.R., Douglas, M.E. and Fausch, K.D. (2004) Ecological and evolutionary consequences of biotic homogenization. <i>Trends in ecology & evolution</i>, 19(1), pp.18-24.

	find themselves, still take precedent? This class will explore the kinds of rules around land use and how these serve as selective forces for particular sorts of animals and plants and explore the counter argument that original templates that inform the biome in which a city establishes remain primary. Give consideration to scale, timeframes, and biotic, abiotic forces, social and ecological considerations. In this class students will be presented with contemporary examples in support of each side of this debate.	
Session 6	Course Related Trip Students will go to both: Edith Stephens Nature Reserve presents a case of conservation in an extremely poor and informal settlement. The realities of the challenges this presents demonstrate clearly that conservation cannot happen in a manner that is separated from society. Stacy-Anne Michaels, their Conservation and People Officer, will provide a talk. Greenpoint Urban Park. This park was a legacy project from the 2010 Soccer world cup and saw the creation of a public green space out of several access-restricted sports facilities. The park is a modern blend of different aspects and includes a biodiversity garden. This park is particularly well used and lends itself to good interrogation around access, use, gender and open spaces. The presence of water and proximity to the coast means birds are an interesting element.	Reading: Brymer, E., T.F. Cuddihy, and V. Sharma-Brymer. 2010. "The Role of Nature-Based Experiences in the Development and Maintenance of Wellness." <i>Asia-Pacific Journal of Health, Sport and Physical Education</i> 1(2), pp. 21–27. <i>Deliverable: CRT Report Due</i>
Session 7	Lecture: Urban Governance of Green Space: Lawns, Re-wilding, Road Verges and Private Gardens This topic explores the role of green space in the context of nature and society and the ecology of our cities. Greenspaces as fragments, patches and corridors have ecological	Readings: Holmes, P.M., A.G. Rebelo, C. Dorse, and J. Wood. Can Cape Town's unique biodiversity be saved? Balancing conservation imperatives and development needs. <i>Ecology and Society</i>, 17(2), pp. 1-13.

	and social roles. How do we govern these to meet biodiversity and social needs? Basic ecological principles demonstrate the importance of patches and fragments? The role of the social benefits from greenspace, which are well documented, should be presented. How we manage the different public and private spaces though and to what end is tricky. How much control does local or national government get over green spaces? What do the different types, sizes and shapes of green spaces offer urban citizens and biodiversity and ecological functioning? At what point does the ecology become more important than the needs or wants of the citizen? How can we go about making these needs and desires come together? Points of debate here relate to the individual versus the state in ecological governance. There is also debate around the role of lawns which are socially highly desirable (sport, recreation, an extension of the home, source of urban heat island mitigation, etc.) and seen as water-guzzling, ecological deserts that foster massive fertilizer inputs with negative social outcomes. Green corridors are also variably positioned as genetic flow sites and refugia, but also conduits for alien plant and animal invasion. <i>Deliverable: CRT Report 1 Due</i>	Ignatieva, M., Haase, D., Dushkova, D. and Haase, A. (2020). Lawns in cities: From a globalised urban green space phenomenon to sustainable nature-based solutions. <i>Land</i>, 9(3) (27 pages). Lepczyk, C.A., et al. (2017). Biodiversity in the City: Fundamental Questions for Understanding the Ecology of Urban Green Spaces for Biodiversity Conservation. <i>BioScience</i> 67(9), 799–807.
Session 8	Midterm Assessment	
Session 9	Lecture: There are strong arguments for urban nature in support of human well-being. These arguments tend to be speculative, but there is growing evidence and even a suggestion that doctors are starting to prescribe ‘doses’ of nature for patients. There is a fair amount of evidence, in the South African context, that pockets of urban nature harbour criminals in cities and that these are sites of crime.	Readings: Kondo, M.C., South, E.C. and Branas, C.C. (2015). Nature-based strategies for improving urban health and safety. <i>Journal of Urban Health</i>, 92, pp.800-814. Potgieter, Luke J. et al, (2019), Does Vegetation Structure Influence Criminal Activity? Insights from Cape Town, South Africa. <i>Frontiers of biogeography</i> 11(1): e42035.

	This topic will seek to present both sides of this debate: is urban nature good or bad for urban citizens? The third smaller angle to notice is the cues-to-care argument, which makes a case for curated nature over wild nature in cities. This is a complex topic, but an interesting one that can readily be taken up in this particular debate: what is the cues-to-care argument and how are the debates in this space emerging that might relate to crime or human well-being. The article by Graham (2015) presents the complexity of developing world contexts, and various insecurities of the human populace in these spaces. This might make a useful positioning or concluding piece and reflecting on this debate in the global south context. There is considerable literature on human well-being and urban nature.	Bowes, M., P. Keller, R. Rollins, and R. Gifford. 2015. "Parks, Dogs, and Beaches: Human-Wildlife Conflict and the Politics of Place." In <i>Domestic Animals and Leisure</i>, pp. 146–171. Graham, M. 2015. "Everyday Human (In) Securities in Protected Urban Nature—Collaborative Conservation at Macassar/Wolfgat Dunes Nature Reserves, Cape Town, South Africa." <i>Geoforum</i> 64: 25–36.
Session 10	Lecture: People have long had strong bonds with some animals – in particular dogs and cats. As a result, there are lots of domestic animals in cities. Pets can foster a sense of care for animals, so could foster an affinity for nature among city residents, but they also pose a threat to other species of wildlife in cities. This lecture presents arguments for, and arguments against, domestic animals in cities. There are strong arguments for the importance of domestic pets for human wellbeing: their role as service animals in reducing anxiety and developing a stronger affinity for animals in general. There is an equal amount of literature on the negative impacts of domestic pets on wildlife. There has also been a lot of work on managing domestic animals in cities, which ranges from inclusive attitudes to stray pets, to stringent laws that exclude domestic pets from	Readings: Charles, N. (2014). 'Animals just love you as you are': experiencing kinship across the species barrier. <i>Sociology</i>. 48(4), pp. 715-730 Seymour, Colleen L. et al. (2020) "Caught on Camera: The Impacts of Urban Domestic Cats on Wild Prey in an African City and Neighbouring Protected Areas." <i>Global ecology and conservation</i>, 23 (18 pages) Hall, Catherine M. 2016. Community Attitudes and Practices of Urban Residents Regarding Predation by Pet Cats on Wildlife: An International Comparison. <i>PLOS ONE</i>, 11(4) pp. 1-22.

	suburbs adjacent to conservation areas. This lecture will cover the social value of pets, the conservation challenge of pets, and the effective management of pets.	
Session 11	Lecture: What is the Role of Values, Livelihoods, and Economics in Promoting Green Space and Green Infrastructure in our Cities? This lecture tackles values and economics in relation to nature and society. The thorny topic of valuing nature in social settings is presented. Many people in cities in the developing regions of the global south are still dependent on nature in cities for the provision of food and shelter, or materials that inform livelihoods. What does this mean for nature in cities? Does it secure nature? Or lead to its destruction? This lecture could present on ecosystem services, the TEEB process, contemporary IPBES values approaches. Take a critical view and be sure to engage with the pros and cons of economic models. What is the history of economic valuation and where do you think it is headed? How do economic valuations differ between the urban and the rural? Do you think the different audiences in each case might make a difference to how effective these methods are? Present the case of the valuation of the City of Cape Town by de Wit and van Zyl as a case through which to understand green infrastructure and economic valuation.	Readings: Pascual, U., Adams, W.M., Díaz, S., Lele, S., Mace, G.M. and Turnhout, E. (2021). Biodiversity and the challenge of pluralism. <i>Nature Sustainability</i>, 4(7), pp.567-572. Petersen, L., Reid, A.M., Moll, E.J. and Hockings, M.T. (2017). Perspectives of wild medicine harvesters from Cape Town, South Africa. <i>South African Journal of Science</i>, 113(9-10), pp.1-8. Berkowitz, A.R., C.H. Nilon, K.S. Hollweg, and W.E. Rees. 2003. "Understanding Urban Ecosystems: An Ecological Economics Perspective." In <i>Understanding Urban Ecosystems: A New Frontier for Science and Education</i>, 115–136. Parks, S., and J. Gowdy. 2013. "What Have Economists Learned About Valuing Nature? A Review Essay." <i>Ecosystem Services</i> 3, (10 pages)
Session 12	Course Related Trip: Students will visit specific sites in the Noordhoek/Simon's Town area to learn more about the Chacma Baboon troop: How they adapt to the urban setting, diets, social structures, and intersection with human populations.	Readings: Shackleton, C.M., S.S. Cilliers, M.J. du Toit, and E. Davoren. 2021. "The Need for an Urban Ecology of the Global South." In <i>Urban Ecology in the Global South</i>, pp. 1–26.

	Students will be given a prompt ahead of time related to the information posters.	
Session 13	Guest Lecture Philile Mbatha is a coastal communities livelihoods expert. Her work is largely rural, but she does excellent work on natural resource use in coastal systems.	Li, Y., J. Qiu, B. Zhao, M. Pavao-Zuckerman, A. Bruns, S. Qureshi, C. Zhang, and Y. Li. 2017. "Quantifying Urban Ecological Governance: A Suite of Indices Characterizes the Ecological Planning Implications of Rapid Coastal Urbanization." <i>Ecological Indicators</i> 72: 225–233.
Session 14	Lecture Cities are often described as islands, separated from some 'main', and this has implications for gene flow. In addition to this, cities present very distinct selective forces on plants and animals. Consider cities as sites of evolution, give an historical overview of this thinking and present some contemporary case studies which demonstrate the role of cities as selective forces. Are these forces uniform across the globe, or do they vary by geographic region? Give some attention to how these possible evolutionary shifts are measured.	Readings Alberti, M., Palkovacs, E.P., Roches, S.D., Meester, L.D., Brans, K.I., Govaert, L., Grimm, N.B., Harris, N.C., Hendry, A.P., Schell, C.J. and Szulkin, M. (2020). The complexity of urban eco-evolutionary dynamics. <i>BioScience</i> , 70(9), pp.772-793 Lambert, M.R. and Donihue, C.M. (2020). Urban biodiversity management using evolutionary tools. <i>Nature ecology & evolution</i> , 4(7), pp.903-910.
Looking Forward and Looking Back		
Session 15	Lecture: Future Casting. This final class will kick off by exploring general ideas of horizon scanning, agenda setting, and question posing. What would be the motivation of any or all of these in the nature society space? Is there a need or motivation for this kind of process? This will be followed by a lecture on emerging interests and concerns, variably emphasised, and variably expressed. The 'in' the 'of' and the 'for' of urban ecology into the future. The class will end with a look at what lies ahead.	Readings: McPhearson, T., Pickett, S.T., Grimm, N.B., Niemelä, J., Alberti, M., Elmqvist, T., Weber, C., Haase, D., Breuste, J. and Qureshi, S. (2016). Advancing urban ecology toward a science of cities. <i>BioScience</i> , 66(3), pp. 198-212 Pataki, D.E., (2015). Grand challenges in urban ecology. <i>Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution</i> , 3(57), pp. 1-6. Reiss, J., J.R. Bridle, J.M. Montoya, and G. Woodward. 2009. "Emerging Horizons in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning

		Research." <i>Trends in Ecology & Evolution</i> 24(9), pp. 505–514.
Session 16	Group Projects Presentations Due Recap and Reflection	Pieterse, E. 2009. "Post-Apartheid Geographies in South Africa: Why Are Urban Divides So Persistent." In <i>Interdisciplinary Debates on Development and Cultures: Cities in Development—Spaces, Conflicts and Agency</i> , (15 pages).
	Final Assessment	

COURSE RELATED TRIPS:

- The first course related trip will first visit the Greenpoint Urban Park, then visit the Edith Stephens Nature Reserve. These sites, which are both ecological projects within different urban settings, will illustrate how social spaces are imagined within urban contexts. Key features related to urban ecology and sustainability will be engaged with at each site.
- The second course related trip will visit specific areas in the Noordhoek/Simon's Town areas to learn more about efforts to mitigate interactions between baboons and humans, and baboon populations within semi-urban environments, to understand how the needs of animal populations are managed alongside human beings and communities.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Alberti, M., Palkovacs, E., Roches, S., Meester, L., Brans, L., Govaert, L., Grimm, N., Harris, N., Hendry, A., Schell, C., & Szulkin, M. (2020). The Complexity of Urban Eco-Evolutionary Dynamics. *BioScience* 70(9), pp. 772–793.
- Anderson, P., & O'Farrell, P. (2012). An Ecological View of the History of the City of Cape Town. *Ecology and Society*, 17(3).
- Barot, S., Abbadie, L., Auclerc, A., Barthelemy, C., Bérille, E., Billet, P., Clergeau, P., Consalès, J., Deschamp-Cottin, M., David, A., & Devigne, C. (2019). Urban Ecology, Stakeholders and the Future of Ecology. *Science of the Total Environment*, 667, pp. 475–484.
- Berkowitz, A., Nilon, C., Hollweg, K., & Rees, W. (2003). Understanding Urban Ecosystems: An Ecological Economics Perspective. In *Understanding Urban Ecosystems: A New Frontier for Science and Education*, pp. 115–136.
- Brymer, E., Cuddihy, T., & Sharma-Brymer, V. (2010). The Role of Nature-Based Experiences in the Development and Maintenance of Wellness. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Health, Sport and Physical Education*, 1(2), pp. 21–27.
- Charles, N. (2014). 'Animals Just Love You as You Are': Experiencing Kinship Across the Species Barrier. *Sociology*, 48(4), pp. 715–730.
- Fischer, J., Abson, D., Butsic, V., Chappell, M., Ekroos, J., Hanspach, J., Kuemmerle, T., Smith, H., & von Wehrden, H. (2014). Land Sparing Versus Land Sharing: Moving Forward. *Conservation Letters* 7(3), pp. 149–157.
- Geyer, H. (2023). Can Informality Help Create Smart, Sustainable Cities? The Vibrancy of Self-Organised Informal Settlements in Cape Town. *GeoJournal*, 88(3), pp. 2471–2489.
- Graham, M. (2015). Everyday Human (In) Securities in Protected Urban Nature—Collaborative Conservation at Ma-cassar/Wolfgat Dunes Nature Reserves, Cape Town, South Africa. *Geoforum*, 64, pp. 25–36.

- Hall, C. (2016). Community Attitudes and Practices of Urban Residents Regarding Predation by Pet Cats on Wildlife: An International Comparison. *PLOS ONE*, 11(4), e0151962.
- Holmes, P., Rebelo, A., Dorse, C., & Wood, J. (2012). Can Cape Town's Unique Biodiversity Be Saved? Balancing Conservation Imperatives and Development Needs. *Ecology and Society*, 17(2).
- Ignatieva, M., Haase, D., Dushkova, D., & Haase, A. (2020). Lawns in Cities: From a Globalised Urban Green Space Phenomenon to Sustainable Nature-Based Solutions. *Land*, 9(3), pp. 1–27.
- Kondo, M., South, E., & Branas, C. (2015). Nature-Based Strategies for Improving Urban Health and Safety. *Journal of Urban Health*, 92, pp. 800–814.
- Lambert, M., & Donihue, C. (2020). Urban Biodiversity Management Using Evolutionary Tools. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 4(7), pp. 903–910.
- Lepczyk, C., Aronson, M., Evans, K., Goddard, M., Lerman, S., & MacIvor, J. (2017). Biodiversity in the City: Fundamental Questions for Understanding the Ecology of Urban Green Spaces for Biodiversity Conservation. *BioScience*, 67(9), pp. 799–807.
- Li, Y., Qiu, J., Zhao, B., Pavao-Zuckerman, M., Bruns, A., Qureshi, S., Zhang, C., & Li, Y. (2017). Quantifying Urban Ecological Governance: A Suite of Indices Characterizes the Ecological Planning Implications of Rapid Coastal Urbanization. *Ecological Indicators*, 72, pp. 225–233.
- McDonnell, M., & Hahs, A. (2013). The Future of Urban Biodiversity Research: Moving Beyond the 'Low-Hanging Fruit'. *Urban Ecosystems*, 16(3), pp. 397–409.
- McPhearson, T., Pickett, S., Grimm, N., Niemelä, J., Alberti, M., Elmqvist, T., Weber, C., Haase, D., Breuste, J., & Qureshi, S. (2016). Advancing Urban Ecology Toward a Science of Cities. *BioScience*, 66(3), pp. 198–212.
- Mitchell, D. (2008). New Axioms for Reading the Landscape: Paying Attention to Political Economy and Social Justice. In *Political Economies of Landscape Change: Places of Integrative Power*, pp. 29–50.
- Aronson, M., La Sorte, F., Nilon, C., Katti, M., Goddard, M., Lepczyk, C., Warren, P., Williams, N., Ciliers, S., Clarkson, B., Dobbs, C., Dolan, R., Hedblom, M., Klotz, S., Kooijmans, J., Kuhn, I., MacGregor, I., McDonnell, M., Mortberg, U., Pysek, P., Siebert, S., Sushinsky, J., Werner, P., & Winter, M. (2014). A Global Analysis of the Impacts of Urbanization on Bird and Plant Diversity Reveals Key Anthropogenic Drivers. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 281(1780), pp. 1–8.
- Olden, J., Poff, N., Douglas, M., Douglas, M., & Fausch, K. (2004). Ecological and Evolutionary Consequences of Biotic Homogenization. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 19(1), pp. 18–24.
- Parks, S., & Gowdy, J. (2013). What Have Economists Learned About Valuing Nature? A Review Essay. *Ecosystem Services*, 3, pp. 1–10.
- Pascual, U., Adams, W., Díaz, S., Lele, S., Mace, G., & Turnhout, E. (2021). Biodiversity and the Challenge of Pluralism. *Nature Sustainability*, 4(7), pp. 567–572.
- Pataki, D. (2015). Grand Challenges in Urban Ecology. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 3.
- Petersen, L., Reid, A., Moll, E., & Hockings, M. (2017). Perspectives of Wild Medicine Harvesters from Cape Town, South Africa. *South African Journal of Science*, 113(9–10), pp. 1–8.
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